

Message Text

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NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS HYLAND, WHITE HOUSE

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SUBJ: CORVALAN/BUKOVSKY EXCHANGE

1. CONSUL GENERAL JAMES NELSON IN ZURICH HAS BEEN FILLED IN ON THIS EXERCISE AND WILL ASSIST ME TOMORROW DURING THE EXCHANGE.
2. SOVIET SPECIAL REP SOLOVOV FROM MOSCOW FOREIGN MINISTRY CAME TO SEE ME AND DCM THIS MORNING, ACCOMPANIED BY SOVIET FIRST COUNSELOR TCHEROV. WE DISCUSSED MODALITIES OF EXCHANGE AT SOME LENGTH.
3. SOVIET REPS REITERATED THEIR INSISTENCE THAT THERE BE NO PUBLICITY AND PRESS COVERAGE. I TOLD THEM THAT WE WOULD OURSELVES COOPERATE IN THIS RESPECT AND EXPECTED SWISS AUTHORITIES TO DO THE SAME, BUT THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM WAS TO SOME EXTENT OUT OF OUR HANDS.
4. WITH REGARD TO ANY OFFICIAL CHILEAN ROLE AT AIRPORT (E.G. PRESENCE OF CHILEAN AMB TO UN SILVA AND POSSIBILITY OF CHILEAN OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING CORVALAN) SOVIETS INSISTED THAT CHILEAN MUST PLAY NO SECRET

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ROLE VIS-A-VIS THEMSELVES. THEY SAID THEIR UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE BETWEEN US AND SOVIETS AS PURELY BILATERAL MATTER.

(I SUBSEQUENTLY TALKED WITH AMB SILVA WHO AGREED WITH RELUCTANCE THAT HIS ROLE SHOULD BE "PASSIVE." HE WILL GO TO AIRPORT AND PLANS TO GREET MR AND MRS CORVALAN AT FOOT OF LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT RAMP. HE WOULD THEN RETIRE TO "PRIVATE ROOM" AND AWAIT ARRIVAL

THERE OF BUKOVSKY. HE PLANS HAVE SOVIET-SPEAKING CHILEAN COLLEAGUE FROM THE US PRESENT WITH TAPERECORDER AND APPARENTLY PLANS MAKE PROPAGANDA SPLASH. SILVA ALSO TOLD ME HE HAD HEARD THAT SUKAROV HAD LET SOMETHING LEAK ABOUT THIS EXCHANGE IN MOSCOW AND HE EXPECTED THE WORD WOULD SOON BE OUT WORLDWIDE.)

5. AS SOVIETS IN BERN AND I NOW ENVISAGE THE SCENARIO FOR TOMORROW IT WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE TWO AIRCRAFT WILL BE PARKED AT KLOTEN AIRPORT FAR ENOUGH APART SO THAT WE CAN MOVE THE EXCHANGEES BY AUTOMOBILE.

B) I WILL GREET MR AND MRS CORVALAN AT FOOT OF LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT RAMP ALONG WITH CHILDEAN AMB SILVA. I WILL TAKE CORVALANS PROMPTLY INTO MY CAR AND DRIVE WITH THEM TO SOVIET AIRCRAFT. IN MEANTIME BUKOVSKY AND HIS MOTHER WILL HAVE LEFT SOVIET AIRCRAFT AND TAKEN THEIR SEATS IN A SOVIET AUTOMOBILE.

C) I WILL ESCORT CORVALANS TO SOVIET AIRCRAFT RAMP AND INTRODUCE THEM TO SOVIET OFFICIALS. AT THE SAME TIME CONSUL GENERAL NELSON WILL GO TO SOVIET CAR AND BRING BUKOVSKY AND HIS MOTHER TO MY CAR. I WILL THEN RETURN TO MY CAR AND DRIVE BUKOVSKY TO THE "PRIVATE ROOM." ON THE WAY OVER I SHALL TELL BUKOVSKY WHAT THE SECRET

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CHILEAN AMBASSADOR'S PLANS ARE.

D) WE ARE LAYING ON A SPECIAL VEHICLE TO HANDLE LUGGAGE TRANSFERS AND HOPE LUFTHANSA WILL HAVE ARRANGED FOR CORVALAN LUGGAGE TO BE READILY ACCESSIBLE. WE ARE ARRANGING THAT IN ANY CASE THEY WILL BE FIRST PASSENGERS TO DEBARK.

6. WE DISCUSSED WITH SOVIET REPS WHAT TO DO IF BAD WEATHER PREVENTS ONE OR BOTH OF THE AIRCRAFT FROM LANDING AT KLOTEN AIRPORT. THIS IS UNLIKELY FOR LUFTHANSA 747 WITH ITS SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT BUT SOVIET AIRCRAFT IS APPARENTLY NOT SO WELL EQUIPPED. IF THE AIRPORT OR AIRPORTS OF DIVERSION ARE IN SWITZERLAND WE WILL SIMPLY TRANSFER OUR ACTIVITIES ACCORDINGLY. IF HOWEVER THE LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT HAS TO LAND AT AN AIRPORT OUTSIDE SWITZERLAND, FOR EXAMPLE STUTTGART, I SAID WE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO INSTRUCT OUR REPRESENTATIVES THERE TO DO THE NECESSARY.

7. (SINCE DRAFTING OF FOREGOING MESSAGE WE HAVE RECEIVED NEWS FROM THE SOVIETS HERE - AS WELL AS FROM WASHINGTON - THAT BUKOVSKY'S SISTER OLGA KOUSTANTINOVNA

IVANOVA AND HER SICK BOY, MICHAIL IVANOV, WILL BE ON
THE SOVIET PLANE. I HAVE TALKED WITH THE SWISS, AND
WE ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AMBULANCE, DOCTOR,
STRETCHER, ADMISSION TO A SWISS HOSPITAL IF NEEDED,
AND LODGING FOR THE BUKOVSKYS.)
DAVIS

SECRET

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